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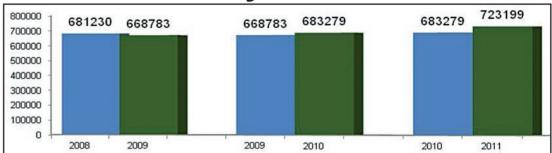
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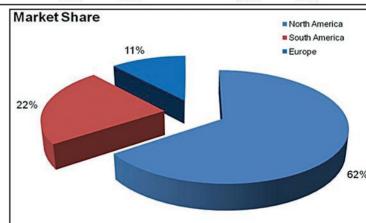
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## Aruba records 5.8% tourism growth between January and October 2011



ORANJESTAD -- The primary focus of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) is to consolidate the amount of visitors during the high season and to increase the amount of visitors during the low season. At the same time they are focusing on the quality of our visitors and on stimulating them to spend more so as to contribute to the econ-



## Man charged with trying to assassinate Obama, says official

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A 21-year-old Hispanic man arrested after shots were fired near the White House was charged yesterday with attempting to assassinate President Barack Obama, a justice department official

Oscar Ortega-Hernandez was arrested by Pennsylvania state police on Wednesday following last week's shooting incident. Obama and his wife Michelle were in California at the time of the incident, and no one was injured.



Oscar Ortega-Hernandez

Ortega-Hernandez -- from the western state of Idaho -was charged in a US federal court in Pittsburgh, where a judge ordered that he remain in police custody, the official said. He could face life in prison if convicted.

According to court filings obtained by AFP, one of the suspect's friends said Ortega-Hernandez saw Obama as the "devil" and was "preparing something."

The witness said the suspect had said Obama "needed to be taken care of" and had pledged he would "not stop until it's done.'

Ortega-Hernandez was due to be transferred "within a few days" to Washington, federal prosecutors said.

omy of Aruba.

In the month of October 2011, Aruba received 65.227 visitors compared to 66.985 in October 2010, which represents a drop of 2.6%. Although the number of visitors did not grow in October 2011, Aruba received during the period of January to October 2011 a total of 723.310 visitors which represents a growth of 5.8% compared to the same period in 2010. The amount of visitors in that period in 2010 was 683.426 visitors who came to Aruba.

#### **North America:**

With respect to our primary market, North America, Aruba experienced a slight drop of 7.3% in visitors in the month of

October. This, ATA believes, is primarily due to the difficult economic situation that the USA is camping with in these times. The economic situation has affected the confidence of the consumer which causes the consumer to spend less for vacations and to be very cautious overall with spending money. According to the statistics of the "Caribbean Tourism Organization" (CTO), up to October, Aruba succeeded in consolidating her North American market while many other prominent destinations in the Caribbean experienced sizeable drops in their visitor arrivals from the North American market.

Continued on page 11

### Tiara Air Aruba signs Boeing **737-300 Lease**

ment for a Boeing 737-300 with the world famous Air Capital Trust aircraft lease company based in the USA. At present the 737-300 Boeing Aircraft with 141 seats, is getting all its required livery and maintenance checks and will be arriving in Aruba soon. The corporation Tiara Air Aruba was recently authorized to do

WAJACA -- TiaraAir Aruba business in the USA and has lands with many destinations recently signed a Lease Agree- received its certification as and International carriers. Tiara Air N.V. Incorporated.

Presently Tiara Air Aruba services destinations such as; Aruba, Bonaire, Riohacha (Colombia), Curacao, Punto Fijo and Maracaibo (Venezuela). Tiara Air Aruba will not only offer inter island connections but will also be a Network Carrier linking Aruba and the neighboring sister is-

A lot of analysis and investment of Tiara Air Aruba's Management Team resulted in this agreement and represents a land mark for aviation in Aruba.

TiaraAir Aruba would like to thank the Civil Aviation Department of Aruba and all its partners involved for their support in realizing this important expansion.





# Valuable archival materials donated to University of Aruba CRD



Documents of Pieter Johan Babijn

Lydia Emerencia, Director of the University of Aruba Center for Research and Development was very pleased to receive two donations at their annex office on L.G. Smith Boulevard yesterday morning. These pieces will become part of the Demetrio Maduro Document Center on their premises, which they are in the process of augmenting to provide a source for historians, sociologists and researchers into Aruban society.

The purpose of the center is to produce knowledge and in-

sights for the academic community and train the next generation of researchers. Documents which assist the center in reconstructing an accurate portrait of earlier island life and community are very welcome.

Mr. Herbert Ras donated an artifact of from the family of his great, great grandmother, who was a Babijn. It is one of the first official identity documents issued to Arubans; in this case, one Pieter Johan Babijn, and it was issued from Curacao.

Continued on page 7



# The Department for Labor Progress alerts...Proper attire may land you that job!

ORANJESTAD -- The Department for Labor Progress has issued an important notice to all those coming to their offices seeking employment. After a careful review of all the processes and in their quest to provide quality assistance and a satisfactory experience to all their clients, they have submitted the following important notice:

After a client has gone through the registration process and they have successfully located a potential employer, the job seeker could succeed in obtaining a referral for a first interview that same day, or at least make acquaintance with a potential employer.

In this context, one of the obstacles has been that many clients, due to lack of information, or sheer ignorance, is unprepared for a job interview, improperly dressed, or have the lack of social skills, or are unable to convince an employer to hire them.

The Morning News can hint here that 4 years ago, Psychologist Tony Green was responsible for training numerous clients of the Department for Labor under a special government program. Green's program was rather extensive, covering such areas as general deporture, simple social skills, appropriate dress code for each type of employment circumstance, approach, question and answer techniques in an interview, do's and don'ts of an interview process, the attitude, proper manners and eye contact skills, etc. Green's program was lauded by then Department officials and candidates who followed the six weeks program. Observers



say that he is still one of the most, if not the most knowledgeable person in this field.

The Department has also noted that many clients go to interviews without the proper documentation (diploma, certificate, reference letter, etc) and this diminishes their employment opportunities.

Fact is that the job seekers' first impression is very crucial, hence the reason for being thoroughly prepared overall. Dress code is of utmost importance when going to an interview for a job.

Job seekers should come to the Department for Labor Progress properly attired for an eventual interview session, bringing all relevant documents with them. Coming properly dressed and well prepared to the Department, definitely enhances the job seeker's chances for landing a job interview and/or a job! Job seekers are reminded that the Department for Labor Progress publishes a weekly update of job openings in our local newspapers in their Saturday editions.

The Department for Labor Progress also wishes to in-

form all employers submitting a request for a first time permit (request for a foreign employee), the extension of a permit, or changes in a permit, that they are to also submit official proof of competency of the employee in question for the job being applied for. Only those in the area of cleaning are exempt from said proof of competency. This measure is to ensure that the Department has a more efficient control over the whole process of the issuing of work permits as this relates to foreign workers.

Failure to comply with any of the stipulated conditions will mean that the petition will be returned to the employer and will not be handled or processed.

The Department has prepared a checklist to help ensure that all aspects are carefully taken cared for. All required forms are available at the front desk of the office of DPL as well as on their website, where they can be freely downloaded.

For more information, consult the website www.dpl.aw.



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**NOVEMBER 20** 

KOFFIE MORGEN 3× POINTS

STARTING FROM 10AM - 6PM TOURNAMENT



# Census Bureau revisited and counter service totally revamped

Last Tuesday a meeting was held by the PIVA Platform where Census Bureaus of the Dutch Kingdom met together to exchange ideas and relevant information. The Prime Minister of Aruba, who has General Affairs which includes the Aruba Census Bureau under his watch, was in attendance at this important meeting.

Eman explained that as a part of the Dutch Kingdom we have a responsibility to ensure that the administrative data-bank of citizens living on Aruba be as accurate as possible. The Prime Minister also indicated that the processes of this data-bank

must be integral with respect to, for example, passpoorts.

Every year the PIVA organization meets to exchange ideas among all the Census Bureaus of the Dutch Kingdom which includes the Bureau in The Hague.

Eman considers it important that we find ways to improve the efficiency of the service we provide our citizens. We are constantly finding new ways to improve the technical aspects of the Bureau, ways to make the service we provide much faster and to improve the interlink between countries in the Dutch Kingdom. If, for example, in the Netherlands they are interested in knowing if a particular citizen is registered in Aruba, this information can be provided much faster than in the past.

Regarding the long waiting lines at the Oranjestad Census Bureau, the question was raised:...What has the government done to aleviate that situation? The Prime Minister responded by saying that the government has been working dilligently to remedy the situation. One of the things they have done is to add some of the services previously available only in Oranjestad, to the auxiliary offices in the Barrios.

Five different extracts,

previously only available at the head Bureau in Oranjestad, are now available in the auxiliary offices in the Barrios. It is believed that some 5000 extracts are issued at the auxiliary offices month.

According to Eman, this amounts to about 60 thousand documents that are no longer sought at the Oranjestad Census Bureau, which means a significant load lifted off the head office. With respect to Passpoorts, which must comply with severe and very strict security measures to exclude any type of fraud, that process is much more intensive and takes

more time to process. The government is currently studying the possibility for creating a special location for the issuing of passpoorts exclusively.

The Prime Minister also informed that within about a year to a year and a half, the entire Census Bureau will be relocated to the former DOW building. The former DOW building is a much larger building with much more space which will eliminate the long wait lines. Because there is much more space there will also be many more service windows...hence, the wait lines will be a thing of the past....finally!

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# Editorial: Looking backwards and forwards on renewable energy

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's political parties are not identified by donkeys or elephants, but colors, with the principal players being green and yellow. It is somewhat ironic that the banner political platform of AVP, which currently holds power through a distinct majority in Parliament won in 2009, is renewable energy and a sustainable environment and economy, as they are the green party, a color chosen decades before the phrases "climate change" and "greenhouse gasses" ever became part of the global vernacular.

Now that the dust has settled on the Aruba Green Energy Conference II, it is a good time to examine what both conferences, in October of 2010 and 2011 were trying to accomplish, and was the time and expense worthwhile? Certainly a non-scientific public, who did not attend but in a sense paid for it, must wonder; it is actually a pity that "the man on the street" of Aruba for the most part did not pay as much attention to these conferences as they should. It is quite vitally important for all of us to be aware of the breakdown of our natural environment and the coming full depletion of oil resources, which will, for many living today, take place in their lifetime.

Minister of Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza opened the conference with quite some impact as he cited eye-opening statistics to which too many are oblivious. He opened by mentioning that "3000 years before Christ the world population counted 500 million inhabi-



**HRH Prince of Orange** 

tants. During the following 48 centuries (up to the year 1800) the global population grew to a billion; thus doubled. This was only 0.01% per year."

Over the next 125 years, the world population doubled again, at a rate 60 times higher than the preceding millennia. Over the next 50 years, it redoubled again by 1975 and calculations expect it to double again by 2025.

Technologically advancing societies began demanding more oil, and discovery of resources peaked during the 1960's, and whatever resources are being found today are only a fraction of what was known to exist 50 years ago. "Rightfully so, many quickly came to the conclusion that there are limits to growth.

However, it appears that the majority did not realize that growth is constrained by whatever resource is in shortest supply. Therefore, growth sustainability cannot be fueled by a depleting non-renewable resource. Such growth would be as limited as the duration and affordability of the limited energy resource which fuels it." Minister de Meza's statistics are compelling:

- "99 % of Total World Oil is being supplied by 44 Oil Producing Countries.
- 60% (26 Countries) are Past their Peak Production, e.g.:
  - 1. USA peaked in 1970
  - 2. Iran in 1974
  - 3. Russia in 1987
  - 4. The UK in 1999
  - 5. The North Sea is now at peak
  - 6. Saudi Arabia soon to collapse"

Aruba's present administration has acknowledged not only the necessity of finding alternative energy sources, but also the damage being done by present practices. They realize the stormy financial waters the island is headed for if it continues to be oil dependent, and is working at a breakneck pace to remedy that situation. HRH Prince of Orange was the final speaker for the conference, and he mentioned that Aruba, at present, is second in the world PER CAPITA, for deploying renewable energy sources; with the addition of a solar park at the airport and another wind farm, it will become #1. Again, these are figures based on a small population.

Ironically, a story that justifies all the Green Aruba Energy Conference is trying to accomplish, broke just a few days following its end. Few people know who the Koch Brothers, Charles and David, are, but they head the largest privately-owned company in the U.S., Koch Industries. It was started by their father, Fred, who developed new methods for refining heavy oil into gasoline,

Koch Industries and their foundations have come under some scrutiny lately, particularly by environmental groups such as Greenpeace. They openly support conservative and anti-climate change advocacy groups, which pump out what could be considered propaganda perpetuating the confusion by asserting that what 97% of the climate change scientists claim about global warming is all a hoax.

Continued on page 5







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# Holiday Season on Aruba is officially here!

In the U.S., the day after Thanksgiving, notoriously named "Black Friday" augers the holiday season and shopping. Here in Aruba, it is the unveiling by the few stores that specialize in seasonal goods of their Christmas trees and holiday décor suggestions, and most certainly, "Christmas World" at Palais Hindu defines this phenomenon.

The Christmas Diva of Palais Hindu is Karina Daryanani, for whom it is a passionate affair. She will barely sleep for weeks decorat-



ing the dozens of trees in the store in stunning ornaments and various motifs in preparation of the Sunday when the family welcomes the public to view her handiwork. "This year peacocks and their colors are very in," she explains of one feathered conifer; another, "Status she dubbed her Aparte" tree done in the colors of the Aruban flag, homage to this year's silver anniversary of the island achieving autonomous rule within the Dutch Kingdom.





Others of Karina's personal favorites are the fun trees for the kids in bright primary colors, the Candy Cane Tree and the Elf Tree in tradition red and green. "For the more trendy we have the minerals, gold, silver, gunmetal and bronze; whatever the color of one's home décor, we have the colors to match or complement it!"

Karina is the person islanders turn to when they want a specialty wreath or a particularly remarkable and eyecatching ensemble for their store, home or business; these



will be very busy days for her as Aruba puts on its holiday dress, but she thrives on it. "During my upbringing in Singapore the holidays were always a special time," she reveals, "it is a lot of work, but I always look forward to it and enjoy every minute of it."

If you are looking for holiday decorating ideas, need some new and interesting ornaments for the tree, or just enjoy the sight of a stunningly designed holiday theme, stop by Palais Hindu and be inspired.



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# Mario Hernandez launches its holiday campaign:

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"It's all in the details," believes the owners of the Mario Hernandez shop in the Paseo Herencia Mall "The fine handcraftsmanship and classic styling of the Mario Hernandez accessories have placed them in high demand around the world."

Mario Hernandez features fine quality leather goods with a trendy touch, the best of the current Mario Hernandez designer collection. It also features a stylish selection of the designer's logo unisex shirts and stunning silk scarves. Shawls and scarves perfectly combine with the buttery leather handbags and accessories for an ensemble fashion statement. Their collection encompasses luggage, handbags and wallets of every sort, with specialized functions.

Mario Hernandez recently announced their special campaign going on now offering a 25% DISCOUNT, through December 1.

This tremendous holiday special gives clients the opportunity to purchase all their Christmas gifts on time, allowing them to treat their loved ones with excellent quality while treating the shopper to very attractive prices.

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## Editorial: Looking backwards and forwards...

**Continued from page 4** 

Richard Muller, a physicist at the University of California-Berkeley was one of the most respected skeptics, having criticized Al Gore as an "exaggerator," Another irony, as Gore was the keynote speaker at the first Green Aruba Energy Conference in 2010.

Muller decided 2 years ago

to conduct a definitive analysis of all the date submitted by climate change scientists; he assembled a team and the Koch foundations were only too happy to provide the funding for a study that would finally refute without question the "climate change/global warming hoax."

Unfortunately, a scrupulous scientist, Muller's findings and his congressional testimony last March didn't go according to plan, and he acknowledged the earth is indeed getting warmer. Global average land temperatures have risen 0.91 degrees Celsius over the past 50 years. This is "on the high end of the existing range of reconstructions."

The rate of increase on land is accelerating. Warming for the entire 20th century clocks in at 0.73 degrees C per century. But over the most recent 40 years, the globe has warmed at a rate of 2.76 degrees C per century.

Warming has not abated since 1998. The rise in average



Richard Muller

temperature over the period 1998-2010 is 2.84 degrees C per century.

Coming on the heels of an event that demonstrates one small nation's commitment to the concepts of global warming, climate change, and the desperate need to find alternative, "clean" energy sources, this is most certainly a pertinent bit of news, and underlines the importance of the event

"Sustainability" is a word very much in use today, by politicians, environmentalists, educators and businessmen; the concept is looking towards the future to insure a quality of life for our children and grandchildren as good as, or better, than our present generations have enjoyed, and isn't this something we all strive for?

We work hard in the hope to send our kids to college, to provide them with all the tools they need for a bright future, but what sort of world will we leave them in to pursue that future? Will it be the dystopia so popular with SF writers and filmmakers, or will we take those sometimes annoying, perhaps even painful steps to turn around the excesses of the past 100 years? We work hard to build up a college fund, even take out educational insurance policies when we can afford them, why will so many refuse to recognize and make that effort to leave behind a world where it is worth existing.

Al Gore named his book "An Inconvenient Truth"; that pretty much says it all.

by Rosalie Klein



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## WHouse slams Benetton's Obama kissing ads

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The House yesterday White slammed a new Benetton advertising campaign showing US President Barack Obama kissing Chinese and Venezuelan leaders smack on the lips.

"The White House has a longstanding policy disapproving of the use of the president's name and likeness for commercial purposes," spokesman Eric Schultz told AFP, speaking of the adverts which have also triggered a protest from the Vatican.

The ads, unveiled on Wednesday, show photo-shopped pictures of Obama kissing Chinese President Hu Jintao and Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez.

The controversial ad campaign has already prompted an outcry from the Vatican over another picture in the series

showing Pope Benedict XVI kissing Egypt's Ahmed el-Tayyeb, a leading imam.

Benetton's portrayal of the pope, the Vatican said, "is wounding not only to the dignity of the pope but also to the sensibilities of the faithful."

The Vatican said it was taking legal action against Benetton despite the Italian clothing company agreeing on Wednesday to pull the photo, saying it was "sorry that the use of the image had so hurt the sensibilities of the faithful.'

The posters appeared in Benetton clothing stores across the globe as well as in newspapers, magazines and on Internet websites, with the company defending its "UN-HATE" ad campaign as meant "solely to battle the culture of hate in all its forms."

# 'Occupy' protesters clash with NY traders, police

NEW YORK (AFP) - Occupy Wall Street activists clashed vesterday with workers and police outside the New York Stock Exchange, prompting more than 100 arrests on the two-month anniversary of the movement's vocal anti-capitalist campaign.

As hundreds linked arms to block access to the NYSE building, one man in a blue business suit wrestled with a protester in a cowboy hat, one of several violent scuffles on a day in which protest organizers vowed a show of force for a movement that has had recent setbacks

Chanting "Wall Street's closed!" "We are the 99 percent" and "Whose street? Our street!," about 1,000 demonstrators engaged in a tense face-off with hundreds of police, including many on horseback outside the iconic exchange.

"Over 100 people arrested," a New York Police Department spokeswoman told AFP, although organizers said the figure was twice that.

The protests were part of a "Global Day of Action" announced by the website occupywallst.org, with hundreds of demonstrations planned across the United States combined with protests in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Poland and Spain.

Police also evicted protesters in Los Angeles and Dallas yesterday, arresting dozens of people.

In London, protesters refused to budge as a deadline to leave their camp outside St Paul's Cathedral by 1800 GMT yesterday passed.

Demonstrators at the site, where dozens of tents have been pitched since October 15, erected a banner saying "You can't evict an idea."

At least 15,000 protesters also demonstrated in Athens vesterday against austerity demanded by measures Greece's new unity govern-

### High risk of terror attacks during 2014 Word Cup

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Sao Paulo police are concerned about possible terrorist attacks during the 2014 World Cup and are bracing for a high risk scenario, the local federal police chief said in an interview published yesterday.

"We are in charge of the security of foreign officials. There is great concern about terrorist attacks. We are taking very strong preventive measures," Roberto Troncon told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo.

The federal police chief in Sao Paulo, one of 12 Brazilian cities that will host the World Cup, said terrorists might take advantage of the tournament to attack foreign delegations rather than Brazilian targets.

Troncon said preventive measures include migration control.

Brazil is also to host the Confederations Cup in 2013 and the summer Olympics in 2016.

# Day Without Car

CALI: AFP photo shows a man on his bike crossing a bridge during the Day Without Car in Cali, Colombia. According to a City Hall's law, yesterday was prohibited the use of private cars, aiming to reduce pollution levels and promoting the use of public and alternative transportation.

The day without cars is part of an improvement campaign that began in Bogota in the mid-1990s. It has seen the construction of 118 miles of bicycle paths, the most of any Latin American city, according to Mockus, the city's mayor.



### EU sounds cry of alarm over resistance to antibiotics

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The Eu- we do not want to lose antimiropean Union warned yester- crobial medicines" for humans day of a sharp rise in deaths across the 27-nation bloc due to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics.

With some 25,000 Europeans dying each year from infections caused by drugresistant bacteria, European health commissioner John Dalli said "we need to take swift and determined action if and animals.

Antimicrobials include antibiotics and can also be used as disinfectants and antisep-

Data issued by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control show resistance to pathogens which often cause pneumonia and urinary tract infections in hos-

pitals on the rise, at a cost of over 1.5 billion euros (\$2.0 billion) in care and productivity losses.

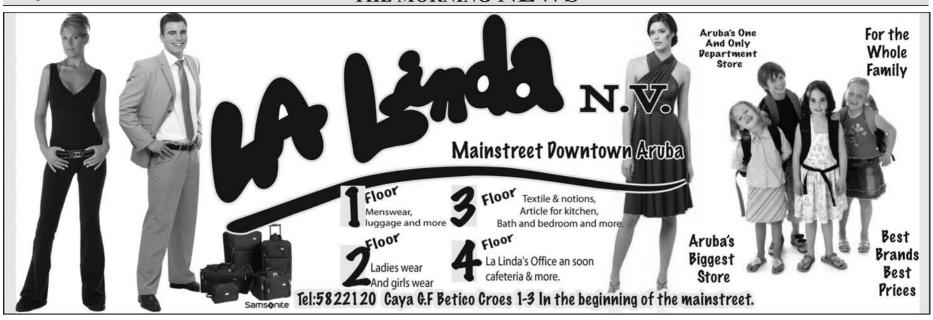
A five-year EU plan to contain the risk of antimicrobial resistance, also known as AMR, calls for research in areas affecting both humans and animals, as resistant bacteria can be transferred from animals to humans in the food chain.



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## Enjoy the holiday season with Paseo Herencia tonight

NOORD -- The ritual of heralding in the holidays by lighting their Christmas trees was such an ebullient and popular affair last week, Paseo Herencia Shopping Center has decided to do it again! All are invited to be infused with the spirit of the season tonight beginning at 8:00 PM.

Lively singing groups Goza Gaita and Las Sensacionales will be center stage in of the Plaza Padu. If you have never experience this interesting regional music originating from the Zulia Province of Venezuela, you are in for a treat!

Also, tonight the shops are offering holiday bargain shopping with sidewalk sales of drastically marked down giftware for all the family. Over 65 shops, clubs and eateries contribute to the fun as well as the corridors of the mall which carry fascinating factoids regarding Aruban history and culture.

Paseo Herencia invites all to join them in savoring and celebrating the end of the year, Aruban style!

# Valuable archival materials donated...

Continued from page 2



Nemencio and Cecilia Ras at left with Ruby Eckmeyer , Lydia Emerencia, Dyantha Maduro and Herbert Diaz

His birth date is listed as 1862. Mr. Ras discovered the document while looking through some old papers long ago stored away in his home. He and Dyantha Maduro of the CRD, also family to Pieter Babijn, turned over the restored document to Ms. Emerencia and Ruby Eckmeyer, Arts and Culture Coordinator for the CRD.

Brother and sister Nemencio Ras and Cecilia Ras de Leon donated a set of cassette tapes Nemencio had made of their mother, Maria, during the many occasions she regaled them with stories of life on Aruba from her childhood. The CRD has conducted courses on and have a great interest in the practice of Oral History; Maria's tapes are an excellent example of the passing down of traditions and tales from earlier times; she had passed

away at the age of 81, one week prior to her children handing over the tapes. Lydia expressed her great satisfaction that her children recognized the value of her stories and donated them to the CRD, rather than them ending up in the rubbish. She would hope more families would appreciate such items and follow their example

The discovery of these artifacts particularly that of Pieter Johan Babijn, has spurred investigation as to his place in Aruban history, especially in how it relates to the sector known as Babijn. The University of Aruba is in the process of organizing a course for islanders regarding the legacy of its ancestors, with a number of different topics being offered for study.

by Rosalie Klein



in Blvd. 382-A (Situated across the Holiday Inn) Tel: 586-6533

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# Health & Living

# Algerian players seek probe into disabled children

ALGIERS (AFP) - Several former Algerian international footballers have called for an investigation into whether their children's disabilities could be linked to medication given them in their playing days.

Eight former Algerian internationals have handicapped children, former defender Mohamed Chaib told AFP.

"We have serious doubts over the effects of medication that we were given during training camps," said Chaib, a father of three girls all born with muscular dystrophy. "We just want the truth."

just want the truth."

One daughter died in 2005 at age 18 as a result of the disease, he said. He and his wife were given a series of tests but no abnormalities were found.

The players' claim, however, was met with skepticism by Ali Fergani, captain of the "Desert Foxes" during the 1982 cup in Spain.

"The number of players who are parents of disabled children is minimal compared to the total number of players selected," he said.

Players said they could not recall the names of the medications they suspect may have caused birth defects. Some said doctors never gave them their medical files, the El Watan newspaper reported.

Djamel Menad, a striker in the 1986 cup, said his daughter born in 1993 suffered from agenesis of the corpus callosum, a condition that causes seizures and muscle weakness.

Menad said it seemed unlikely to be a coincidence that several other players his age had children with disabilities and blamed the medications doctors handed out.

"Since I discovered I was not alone, I began to ask myself questions," he said. Menad thinks its possible

Menad thinks its possible there is a link between the medicines and tonics doctors gave players.

"They gave us drugs and vitamins to battle for energy loss after training and matches," Menad said.

But Fergani said the only substance he recalled being given was Vitamin C.

Sports authorities in the former Sovet bloc have been found to have administered drugs to athletes without their knowledge in the 1970s and 1980s.



### Partnership plans cervical vaccines for poor countries

PARIS (AFP) -A major campaigner in vaccines for poorer countries announced plans on Thursday for innoculating up to two million women and girls against cervical cancer by 2015.

GAVI, a Geneva-based public-private partnership set up in 2000, said the initiative was approved at a board meeting in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka

The scheme depends on price negotiations with manufacturers and assurances from governments that they can distribute the vaccines effectively, it said in a press release.

Nine countries are candidates for the vaccine, although their names are being withheld at this stage, said a spokesman for GAVI, reached by phone from Paris.

The cost of the project cannot be disclosed immediately because of the sensitive nature of the price talks, he added.

The vaccine shields against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes some 275,000 deaths each year from cervical cancer, 88 percent of them in developing countries.

HPV vaccines have been available in rich countries since 2007. It can take 10 or 15 years for advanced vaccines to be rolled out in poorer settings.

"The HPV vaccine is critical to women and girls in poorer countries because they usually do not have access to screening to prevent cervical cancer and treatment taken for granted in richer nations," said GAVI's chief executive, Seth Berkley.

The GAVI board also agreed to seek funds for vaccines against German measles, also called rubella, a child-hood disease which is highly dangerous for pregnant women, leading to miscarriage, stillbirth and birth defects.

# Obama urges smokers to follow his example and quit



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama, a former smoker, urged Americans to stub out their cigarettes on the "Great American Smokeout Day," adding he knows just how hard it is to quit.

"Today, 46 million Americans are still hooked. And to-

bacco remains the leading cause of preventable early deaths in this country," Obama said in a statement.

"The fact is, quitting smoking is hard. Believe me. I know. But we can make it easier," he said.

Obama, a longtime smoker, quit in early 2010 a year after entering the White House, his former spokesman Robert Gibbs and First Lady Michelle Obama have said.

In December 2010, Gibbs said the president had not had a smoke in nine months. He acknowledged it had been a battle for Obama given the stress he was under, but he had succeeded because he's stubborn

In February, the first lady said her husband had not smoked for about a year, and said she has not raised the subject with him since.

### Brussels greenlights natural Latin American sweetener



BRUSSELS (AFP) - Brussels gave its green light this week to the use of the age-old natural South American sweetener, stevia, in foods and drinks across the European Union

The European Commission said it gave approval of the natural sweetener for use in the food industry from December 2 on the recommendation of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA).

Stevia rebaudiana, sometimes known as sweatleaf or

sugarleaf, is part of the sunflower family. Its steviol glycoside extracts can be far sweeter than sugar, making it attractive for low-carbohydrate, low-sugar foods.

Stevia is widely used in Asia and South America.

The director of the International Stevia Council welcomed the decision saying that "as a result, consumers across Europe will be able to enjoy products sweetened by steviol glycosides."



# Staggering surge in Android gadget viruses: Juniper



(AFP) - The arsenal of malicious code aimed at Android-powered gadgets has grown exponentially, with criminals hiding viruses in applications people download to devices, according to Juniper Networks.

The computer systems specialty firm's Global Threat Center found "staggering growth" in mobile "malware" targeting the Google-backed Android platform, according to findings available online Wednesday.

Juniper researchers reported seeing a 472 percent surge in the number of new viruses crafted to attack Android devices since July.

Slightly more than half of the malicious applications uncovered were "spyware" designed to steal messages, location, identity or other personal information from devices, according to California-based Juniper.

Most of the remaining viruses were designed to bilk money from smartphone users by sending text messages to premium rate numbers without device owners knowing.

Android devices are prime targets because the online marketplace for third-party applications such as games does nothing to check software for hidden threats, according to Juniper.

"The main reason for the malware epidemic on Android is because of different approaches that Apple and Google take to police their application stores," Juniper researchers said in a blog post.

"Android's open applications store model, which lacks code signing and an application review process that Apple requires, makes it easy for attackers to distribute their malware," they said.

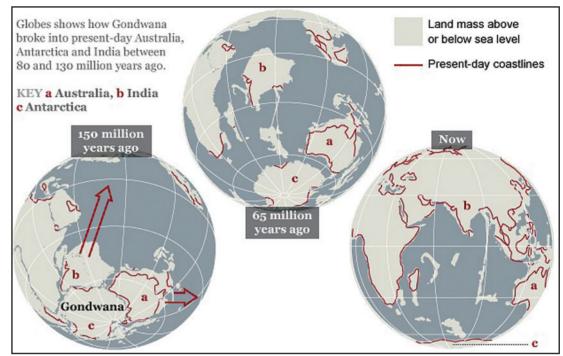
Apple, on the other hand, is known for stringently screening applications before making them available at the App Store for download to iPhones, iPads or iPod Touch devices.

"There is still no upfront review process in the official Android Market that offers even the hint of a challenge to malware writers that their investment in coding malware will be for naught," Juniper said.



### Sci-Tech

# Parts of Gondwana megacontinent found off Australia



SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian scientists exploring areas of the Indian Ocean said Thursday they had found sunken parts of the megacontinent Gondwana which could offer clues on how the current world was formed.

The two "islands" were found on the remote sea floor in international waters 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) west of Australia during a surveying trip last month.

Their rocks contained fossils of creatures found in shallow waters, meaning they were once part of the continent at or above sea level rather than created by undersea volcanic activity, said Sydney University geophysicist Jo Whittaker.

She called it an exciting discovery which would hopefully shed light on how Gondwana broke into present-day Australia, Antarctica and India between 80 and 130 million years ago.

Whittaker, one of the key researchers, said she was particularly interested in exploring India's drift first northwest and then sharply north, where its northeast coast, once joined to Australia, smashed into Eurasia, forming the Himalayas.

"We have a fairly good idea where those continents were but we don't exactly know, the eastern Indian Ocean is one of the more poorly explored parts of the world's oceans in terms of tectonics," she told AFP.

"So it will help us figure out the plate kinematic motions that led to India moving away from Australia and heading up off to crash into Eurasia."

Samples of sandstone and granite dredged from a steep cliff on one of the islands, about 2,000 metres (6,600 feet) below the ocean surface, are to be dated but the research team believe they are up to one billion years old.

The rocks will also be compared with samples from Australia's west coast to try to determine where exactly the islands broke away from.

Similar matching was not possible with India because the relevant coast was now "smashed into the Himalayas somewhere," said Whittaker.

India's east coast was once adjacent to what is now modern-day Antarctica.

She likened the continental separation to pulling something "a bit gooey" apart and said the fragments, which are a fraction of the thickness of normal continental crust and combined about the size of Scotland, were the "little pieces that got left behind."

"These pieces are probably not as thick as (continental crust) so they sit a little bit lower in the water, like something floating in the bath essentially," she said.

Whittaker added that the fossil find was extremely lucky given the vastness of the area they were dredging.

"We're excited to actually get some really good samples and very clear cut continental rocks which show that (the islands) are little fragments of Gondwana that were left behind as India moved away from Australia," she said.

Plate tectonic theory is a relatively young science which was only recognised in the 1950s and experts were still trying to establish what made the continents move and change direction, she added.

Australia was moving northwards at a speed of about seven centimetres (2.75 inches) a year, likely due to a subduction zone along the Indonesian coastline where two plates met that was linked to the destructive 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

Antarctica, on the other hand, was not moving at all and Whittaker said discoveries like the Gondwana islands were critical.

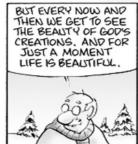
"It's very significant, it's not every day you discover two large continental fragments on the ocean floor," she

"Together with some of the other data this has the potential to change how we've been modelling that part of the world and that timeframe."



#### **PICKLES**









#### **MOMMA**









#### **CALVIN and HOBBES**











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#### **ACROSS**

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# DRUG STORES OPEN AFTER HOURS Nov 12 - Nov 19

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#### Twelve Step Meetings 24 hours helpline 583-8989

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Telephone Helpline 583-1190 Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn. Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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Alzheimer's Day Care Center Tel: 5696910

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#### Tel. 5274000

**EMERGENCY** Telephone 911

#### **POLICE HDQS**

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# Sudoku

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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

### **Finance**

### Aruba records 5.8% tourism growth . . .

#### Continued from page 1

The economic situation in the US has affected tourism in the entire Caribbean region. Aruba has experienced a drop in visitor arrivals from the Mid-Atlantic, Western, South-East, Mid-West, and North-East regions. While there has been a drop from the US market, the Canadian market has grown by 17.8% compared to 2010.

It appears that the Canadian market has been less affected by the economic situation. The prognosis from Canada is positive and indicates that 2012 will again be a good year for this market. The fact that there are now more options for getting to Aruba from Canada, such as via Sunwing Airlines operated by Signature Vacations with their once weekly flight to Aruba, make the prospect so much brighter.

#### Latin America

This market continues to grow steadily. In October there was an increase of 11.5% compared to October of 2010. The Argentine market was the leader with a whopping increase of 106.2% or a total of 545 visitors. Next was the Venezuelan market with 12.6% compared to October of 2010. or a total of 929 tourists. Colombia also grew by 4.4%. From Brazil there was a slight

drop of 4.4% as a result of the high demand for airline seats from other destinations in the Latin American market.

Said demand meant less available seats for Brazilian tourist to Aruba. Another factor which contributed to the drop in visitors from Brazil is the fact that there were not enough hotel rooms available simply because of the high demand for rooms from this very

ATA and the government are doing everything 'possible to increase the amount of nonstop flights from Brazil as well as on increasing the amount of airline seats to Aruba from Brazil.

#### **Europe:**

From Europe, there was a drop of 1.1%. Despite this small drop from Europe, the Italian market continues to grow and this month marked an increase of 108.9% which is 122 more visitors.

This increase is thanks to the charter flights from Milan to Aruba as of December of last year. From the Holland, Belgium and Scandinavian countries October registered an increase compared to last year. The German market decreased by 3.4% and England with 24.1%, again due to the world economic situation.

According to AHATA, the ADR (average daily room rate) increased by 6.8% or \$143.65 in 2010, to \$153.49 in 2011. And, according to Central Bank, tourism receipts increased by an average of 9% compared to 2010. Hotel occupancy dropped by 5.6% in October. This drop caused a drop in income per room, the RevPar (revenue per available room) to 1.6% or \$101.42 in October 2010 to \$99.84 in October 2011.

From January to October 2011, AHATA has recorded a growth of 6.4% with respect to the ADR, and an increase of 8.4% for the RevPar. This means that those visiting our island are paying more per

ATA is pleased with these results. They are especially pleased with the fact that they are succeeding to increase the amount of visitors particularly in the months when this is most needed; and that they are achieving and surpassing the goal set of 3% increase for the year. They will continue to put emphasis on improving the quality of visitors.

Accompanying images on page 1 illustrate graphically the number of visitors Aruba received between January and October for 2009 to 2011, and how this has grown in 2011.

## EU: Greece can write off 52 billion euros in unpaid taxes

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Greece stands to lose 52 billion euros (\$70 billion) in unpaid taxes and is set to raise a mere 1.3 billion euros out of a 5.0-billion euros target for privatisation proceeds this year, the EU said yesterday.

The figures emerged from a report by European Commission experts seconded to Athens to help reform Greece's economy and re-direct unclaimed EU grants to boost flagship development projects.

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"Sixty billion euros of unpaid taxes -- of which 30 billion in pending tax cases -- are currently outstanding in Greece," said the report by commission "task force" chief Horst Reinchenbach, citing very low collection prospects with a backlog of some 165,000 tax files to be processed.

An EU official said only half in the legal in-tray is even "theoretically collectable" and that only 8.0 billion euros were likely to be recovered "sooner or later."

On Wednesday, the Greek finance ministry said tax receipts for the first 10 months of 2011 had dropped 4.1 percent on the corresponding period last year. At just over 39 billion euros, that leaves an additional budget shortfall of one billion euros to be made up.

Seeking to improve those odds, the EU executive is helping Greece negotiate with Switzerland in a bid to claw back "vast amounts" of money believed to be hidden in Swiss banks by Greek nationals.

Facing a fourth year deep in

recession, Athens wants to emulate direct deals done with Switzerland by Germany and Britain to recover proceeds from assets hidden in the country by their nationals seeking to avoid tax.

Swiss media have estimated that some 350 billion francs (282 billion euros) in Greek assets are hidden in secretive bank vaults. But last year the Swiss National Bank said just 4.1 billion francs in Greek assets were held in 2010.

Making matters worse, a wider economic downturn is wreaking havoc with bailout partners' demands that Greece produce 50 billion euros in privatisation receipts by the end of 2015 in exchange for new rescue funding.

The first 5.0 billion euros in sales was originally due this year and a total of 15 billion euros by the end of next year, but a "new target" foresees only "revenues of 1.3 billion euros from privatisations and concessions" by December 31, the report said.



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TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

WestinAruba.com/magic

MagicLive.com MagicOnTheBeach.com



# Oscars spokeswoman resigns, after bumpy spell



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The head of communications for the Oscars, Leslie Unger, has resigned, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said, after a bumpy week or two for the organization.

Unger, who joined the Academy in 1992 and took her current position after her predecessor John Pavlik retired in 2007, is due to step down at the start of December, reports said. "Leslie has been with the

Academy for 19 years, a wonderfully dedicated executive who has made many positive and lasting contributions to the organization, said the Acad-

emy's CEO Dawn Hudson.
"We are all grateful for her leadership over these many years. We wish her the very best as she takes some well-deserved time off before moving on to the next chapter of her career."

The Hollywood Reporter said the Academy's publicity and marketing team has been in the midst of change. In July, Christina Kounelias was named to the newly created position of chief marketing officer, directly above Unger.

Variety reported Kounelias was appointed by Hudson, who herself arrived earlier this year. Longtime executive director Bruce Davis also retired this year after 22 years, it said.

The announcement also comes after the Academy had to scramble to replace the host and one of the producers of its annual show, barely three months away.

Host Eddie Murphy resigned on November 9 following a row over anti-gay remarks by a producer of the February 26 show, Brett Ratner, whose departure was announced a day earlier.

Murphy's successor was named within 24 hours as Oscars veteran Billy Crystal, who will be hosting his ninth Academy show, the climax of Holannual awards lvwood's

**EGG DISHES** \*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese \*Scrambled

with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom

\*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom

All egg dishes are served with a choice of: white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.

> \*PASTECHI HORNA \*CRÊPES \*SWEET CRÊPES

\*BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg

**LOCAL BREAKFAST** 

\*Pan grandi ( di rama ) or baguette \*KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH)

\*CONCH

\*FISH EGG

\*SHRIMPS

\*FISH FILLET \*FISH CAKE

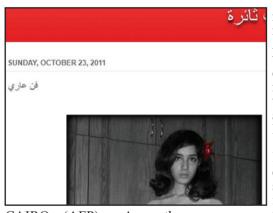
\*CHICKEN SOUP

\*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT

**HOT BEVERAGES COLD BEVERAGES** 



## Egypt youth group looks askance at nude model



CAIRO, (AFP) - A youth movement that helped overthrow Egypt's president Hosni Mubarak now faces another battle -- distancing itself from a woman who posted nude pictures of herself on a blog.

Alia al-Mahdy, who posted the pictures on her "Memoirs of a Revolutionary" blog, was reported to be a member of the April 6 group, which has clashed with the military rulers who took charge after Mubarak's February ouster.

The pictures led to a flurry of criticism on the social networking site Twitter, including con-

cerns voiced by liberal activists that the nude photos would be used against them by their conservative opponents.

"This is yet another attempt the National Security (agency) and the remnants of the old regime to smear us," an April 6 statement on Tuesday said.

In another email, the youth

movement posted screen shots of Mahdy's Facebook account on which she denied being a member of the group.

For her part, Mahdy justified her pictures on her blog as freedom of expression.

"Try the nude models who worked in art faculties in the 1970s, hide art books and destroy nude artefacts," she wrote on her blog.

"Then strip and look at yourselves in the mirror and burn your bodies which you hate so you can rid yourselves of your complexes before directing your racist insults at me," she wrote.

Mahdy's pictures were extremely unusual in Egypt, where most Muslims and Christians disapprove of displays of nudity.

## US judge fines Jackson doctor's star witness

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The star witness for Dr Conrad Murray, the physician convicted of causing the death of "King of Pop" Michael Jackson, was fined \$250 on Wednesday for disobeying the judge during the six-week case.

But judge Michael Pastor ruled that Dr Paul White, an expert on propofol, an anesthetic given to the late pop star, faces no further action after he reportedly called the prosecution's main expert witness a "scumbag."

Murray was found guilty on November 7 of involuntary manslaughter over Jackson's death in June 2009.

The 58-year-old's lawyers presented White in the last week of the trial, to counter evidence given by the prosecution's main expert witness on profofol, Dr Paul Shafer.

During testimony on October 31, the judge ordered jurors to leave the court while he admonished White for talking in front of the jury about con-

versations he had had with Murray.

Shortly after the jury was brought back into court, White mentioned in his testimony that the judge had ordered him not to talk about certain things in front of the jury, triggering Pastor's anger.

"I find that there was a violation of a lawful court order in this case," judge Pastor said Wednesday, ordering White to pay a \$250 fine.

The judge however said he would take no further action over the alleged "scumbag" comment, which White reportedly made on October 20 in reference to Shafer, according to celebrity website E! Online.

Pastor said that the reported comment was not direct contempt of court, and dropped

A lawyer from the firm of Murray's attorney Ed Chernoff, is due in court on the same day to answer contempt of court charges for having discussed the case in a TV interview during the trial.

# Taylor Swift feels responsibility in stardom



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Taylor Swift, at 21 one of the biggest stars in country music, says she considers her fame to be an awesome responsibility almost from the minute she wakes up.

"I definitely think about a million people when I am getting dressed in the morning,"

the singer-songwriter with the supermodel looks told the CBS news magazine "60 Minutes" in an interview to be telecast on Sunday.

"That's just part of my life now. I think it's my responsibility to know it and to be conscious of it."

She added it would be all too easy, as a star, to deny any impact on her audience: "The truth of it is that every singer out there with songs on the radio is raising the next generation -- so make your words count."

Swift -- who collected her second career entertainer of the year trophy at the Country Music Awards last week --

scores her eighth top-10 debut in the Billboard singles charts this week with "If This Was a Movie."

Her first concert album, "Speak Now World Tour: Live," recorded during the early stages of an ongoing world tour that kicked off in Singapore in February this year, is due out Monday



# Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready in-

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and minimall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday

escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

# Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving too their customers what



Rosie and Aaron love their burger



Gouda Burger 2

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batterdipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

#### **SPORT**

# **Basketball:** Chinese league boosted by NBA woes

BEIJING (AFP) - China's basketball league starts this weekend boosted by an exodus of star players fleeing the NBA lock-out, which has also given an opportunity to show more domestic games on national TV.

J.R. Smith, Kenyon Martin, Wilson Chandler and China's own ex-Washington Wizards power forward Yi Jianlian are among numerous ex-NBA players suiting up for the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), which reopens on Sunday.

Several out-of-contract NBA players signed for Chinese clubs rather than wait for a resolution of the financial dispute between clubs and players which has held up the start of the American season and could scuttle it altogether.

"The foreign players coming to the CBA are getting better and better, competition in the league and the level of play is getting higher and higher," said Yi, who has joined up with reigning champions the Guangdong Tigers.

The champions open the season against Smith's Zhejiang Golden Bulls in a nationally televised game Sunday. The ex-Denver Nuggets guard was reportedly signed for a Chinese-record, one-year contract of US\$3 million.

China Central Television will air Zhejiang games at least once a week through November, a decision that came after Smith wowed spectators with 33 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in a pre-season exhibition game.

With a reported 300 million basketball fans in China, the state broadcaster has also increased the number of CBA games to be broadcast this sea-

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son to up to five a week to fill the void left by the NBA lockout.

After cancelling its November games, the NBA announced Tuesday that the 2011-2012 season would not begin until December 15 at the earliest, provided a collective bargaining agreement with players can be worked out.

"The CBA has been having financial difficulties itself, so the NBA lock-out is providing the CBA with a marketing opportunity," Su Qun, editor of the popular Basketball Pioneers newspaper, told AFP.

"This means higher revenues for the CBA, not only because of all the newly arrived NBA players, but also because there will be no NBA games to watch on television."

Despite the influx of ex-NBA players and coaches, Guangdong are favourites to repeat as champions, boasting five national team players and former Dallas Mavericks forward James Singleton, one of the CBA's top scorers last season. Their main rivals will be the Xinjiang Flying Tigers, who signed former NBA All Star Martin and brought in one-time Cleveland Cavaliers assistant coach Robert Donewald, who also heads up China's national team.

Other contenders include Zhejiang Guangxia, who signed former Nuggets forward Chandler and are coached by one-time Los Angeles Lakers assistant Jim Cleamons.

Meanwhile, former New York Knicks star Stephon Marbury begins his third CBA season with the Beijing Ducks, the third team in his China career.

The 34-year-old multi-millionaire has also voiced his hopes of one day coaching in the CBA and even the China national team.

The CBA, founded in 1995, currently has 17 teams. The 34-round 2011-2012 season ends in late February and will be followed by an eight-team championship play-off.

# Golf: History a long shot for Martin in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Spanish ace Pablo Martin got off to a rocky start Thursday as he chased a historic hat-trick in the Alfred Dunhill Championship on a blistering day at South Africa's Leopard Creek golf course.

South Africa's Jbe Kruger and England's Seve Benson leapt to an early lead at the close of the million-euro championship's first day, each shooting an eight-under-par 64.

They were followed by Jean-Baptiste Gonnet of France, George Murray and Alan McLean of Scotland, and George Coetzee of South Africa at six under par.

Martin, who is looking to become only the fifth player in history to win the same European Tour event three times in a row, finished near the bottom of the pack with a lacklustre nine over par.

The temperature on the course, located in the African bush near the world-famous Kruger National Park, reached a sweltering 41 degrees (105.8 degrees Fahrenheit) -- softening the tarmac to the point that it stuck to players' golf-cart wheels.

"It's so hot that sometimes you have to take a few deep breaths. Everyone out there is affected by the heat," said Benson.

The 25-year-old -- whose father named him for his favourite golfer, the late Severiano Ballesteros -- himself turned up the heat after the turn and made three successive birdies from the 10th to the 12th

He ended the day with a trio of pars.

Kruger, also 25, started on the back stretch and shot a trio of birdies from the 11th to the 13th.

He shot a bogey at the 16th but eagled the 18th, going on to card four birdies after the turn

The course is the brainchild of South African legend Gary Player and billionaire businessman Johann Rupert.

As golfers tee off, eagles, antelope and buffalo can be seen around the creek, while crocodiles and hippos frolick in the lakes dotting the course.

The championship is cosanctioned by the European Tour and the South African Sunshine Tour.



# Football: Cruyff seethes as Ajax announce van Gaal return



Louis van Gaal

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Louis van Gaal will return to Ajax as general manager in July 2012, the club announced on Thursday, provoking the anger of club legend and board member Johan Cruyff.

Van Gaal, 60, will work alongside sporting director Danny Blind and commercial director Martin Sturkenboom as part of a new leadership structure at the home of the four-time European champions.

The former Bayern Munich coach managed Ajax between 1991 and 1997, notably leading them to the Champions League title in 1995, and was sporting director from 2003 to 2004.

However, Van Gaal's appointment was made against

the wishes of Cruyff, who has never been able to hide his dislike of his country-

"They've gone mad," said Cruyff when informed of the decision.

Cruyff had wanted to install former Ajax striker Marco van Basten as the club's general manager but said he would not relinquish his post on the five-man board despite van Gaal's arival

Two weeks ago, van Gaal said that he would never return to Ajax "as long as Johan Cruyff is at the club".

Van Gaal remains on the payroll at Bayern, where he worked from 2009 to April 2011, which is why he cannot take up his position at Ajax for another eight months.

"Van Gaal's arrival is in the interest of the club," said Steven ten Have, president of the advisory board.

"If he and Cruyff work together for Ajax, they may be able to look beyond certain rivalries."

Van Gaal's return is likely to create tension at Ajax, however, where Cruyff counts head coach Frank de Boer and coach Dennis Bergkamp among his supporters.



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# Golf: Tiger mauled in matchplay loss

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Tiger Woods suffered one of his worst-ever matchplay defeats yesterday in America's only loss in the opening day foursomes against the International team at the Presidents

The former world number one, the winner of the most foursome matches with nine at the biennial teams event, lost seven and six with playing partner Steve Stricker to Australian Adam Scott and South Korean K.J. Choi.

It was the Internationals' only success as the US team fought back to claim a 4-2



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US golfer Tiger Woods (L) shakes hands with former caddie Steve Williams at the Presi- a bogey while Woods and dents Cup tournament on Stricker gave up three bogeys.

November 17. Choi converted a seven-

lead after the first day.

But it was a significant defeat for the 14-time major winner Woods, who is without a tournament win in the last two

The defeat was the first for Woods and Stricker as teammates at The Presidents Cup after they were unbeaten in four matches at the 2009 event in San Francisco.

Prior to Thursday's foursomes match, Woods' worst defeat in The Presidents Cup was a five and three setback with Charles Howell III in a 2003 foursomes match against South Africans Tim Clark and Ernie Els.

Woods and Stricker did lose six and five to English pair Lee Westwood and Luke Donald at the 2010 Ryder

Scott and Choi posted birdies at the second, sixth, 11th and 12th and did not have

foot birdie putt at 12 to close out the match.

US team captain Fred Couples afterwards broke up the Woods-Stricker combination for Friday's fourball with Woods to partner Dustin Johnson and Stricker linking up with Matt Kuchar.

### **NFL: Packers Jolly** sentenced to six yrs in jail

HOUSTON (AFP) - Green Bay Packers player Johnny Jolly has been sentenced to six years in prison on Thursday for violating the terms of his probation on a drug charge.

Texas judge Denise Bradley sentenced the defensive lineman, who is under suspension by the National Football League, to jail despite Jolly's plea for another

Jolly was charged with possession of a compound containing codeine and tampering with evidence following a traffic stop in October.

It was his third drug arrest in three years. The court gave Jolly jail time because the arrest violated the terms of his probation.

Jolly started for the Packers in the 2008 and 2009 seasons but was suspended indefinitely by the league in July of last year.

He did not play for the Packers when they won the Super Bowl in February.

## **NFL:** Chargers' Dielman out for season after concussion

SAN DIEGO (AFP) - The San Diego Chargers placed Pro Bowl offensive lineman Kris Dielman on injured reserve Wednesday, ending his season due to the concussion he suffered against the Jets on October 23.

Dielman, a left guard, had a seizure on the team flight home from the game in New York, but was originally expected to miss two games.

The team's response to Dielman's injury came under scrutiny by both the league and the player's union.

Although he visibly struggled to keep his balance, he

was not taken out of the game and the concussion was not diagnosed until he was evaluated after the contest.

Ten days after the incident, the NFL instructed game officials to watch out for symptoms of concussion in players.

"If an official believes a player may have suffered a concussion, he should take appropriate steps to alert the team and get medical attention for the player," league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

The Chargers signed offen-Ikechuku sive lineman Ndukwe to replace Dielman in the squad.

## Baseball: Astros approved by



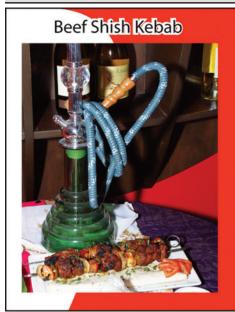
MILWAUKEE (AFP) - Major League Baseball owners have approved the sale of the Houston Astros and given the green light for the club to shift from the National League over to the American League.

Beginning in the 2013 season, Houston will move from the National League Central division to the American League West division, giving each league 15 teams.

The league also unanimously approved the sale of the team to Houston business tycoon Jim Crane for \$615 million. Crane bought the team from former owner Drayton McLane who paid \$117 million for the Astros in 1992

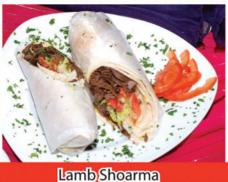
Commissioner Bud Selig said on Thursday that owners also approved two more wildcard teams for the playoffs, meaning 10 of the 30 teams now make it to the post-sea-

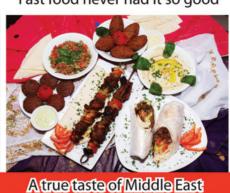




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South Beach Centre, Palm beach 55 Fast food never had it so good







# Blatter must go over racism comments: minister



LONDON (AFP) - British Prime Minister David Cameron said it was "appalling" of FIFA president Sepp Blatter to downplay the impact of racism as the global football supremo faced calls to quit for his controversial comments.

Blatter suggested in a television interview that disputes on the pitch involving racist abuse should be resolved by a handshake.

However, Cameron, in a statement issued Thursday, said: "It's appalling to suggest that racism in any way should be accepted as part of the game.

"A lot of work has gone into ridding racism from all aspects of our society, including football. As many of our top sports stars have rightly pointed out, now is not the time for complacency."

Cameron's comments came after his sports minister, Hugh Robertson, urged Blatter -- already unpopular in England for the way in which he and FIFA dealt with the country's failed bid to stage the 2018 World Cup -- to resign.

"Sepp Blatter's comments are completely unacceptable," Robertson said.

"This is the latest episode that calls into question whether this man should be the head of world football.

"For the sake of the game, he should go. We have been consistent in our calls for improved governance at FIFA and this underlines the need for that once more."

The head of England's Professional Footballers Association, Gordon Taylor, also said Blatter should it.

"Racism is divisive and for him to say the player on the receiving end should forget about it at the end of the game and shake hands... We are going backwards... It is not good enough, it's embarrassing. "It is time for him to go."

Herman Ouseley, a member of the House of Lords who chairs the anti-racism Kick It Out group, said Blatter had no "understanding of what racism is".

Blatter's comments came as Liverpool's Uruguayan international Luis Suarez was charged by the English Football Association for allegedly racially abusing Manchester United's French international Patrice Evra.

England captain John Terry is also facing a police and FA investigation over allegations he hurled racist abuse at QPR defender Anton Ferdinand.

In an interview with CNN on Wednesday, Blatter said the sport did not have a problem with racism.

"My comments have been misunderstood. What I wanted to express is that, as football players, during a match, you have 'battles' with your opponents, and sometimes things are done which are wrong," Blatter later issued in a statement.

# **Golf: Americans hit back** to lead Presidents Cup



**US Team Presidents Cup 2011** 

leries.

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Defending champions United States clawed back from early deficits to seize the momentum and a 4-2 lead over the Internationals after the opening day foursomes at The Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne on Thursday.

For the third straight event, the Americans grabbed the early advantage after the opening foursomes as they look to extend their dominance in the biennial teams event.

The non-European International team let slip leads in four of the six matches to relinquish a promising start as they chase only their second victory in nine Presidents Cups.

The Americans' defiant fightback came despite the prominent pairing of Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker crashing to a seven and six thrashing at the hands of Australian Adam Scott and South Korea's K.J. Choi.

But the US team finished the opening day of the fourday teams event in charge after wins by Bubba Watson/Webb Simpson, Hunter Mahan/David Toms and Phil Mickelson/Jim Furyk.

Bill Haas/Nick Watney and Dustin Johnson/Matt Kuchar fought back to halve their matches and take the steam out of the Internationals, who were enjoying home support from large Australian gal-

"Point-wise, we are more excited than we were an hour and a half before the end of the day," US team captain Fred Couples said.

"But that's happened before and our guys fought hard. At the end of the day it was Billy Haas and Nick Watney getting a half a point from Schwartzel and Ogilvy in an unbelievable match.

"And then Dustin Johnson made a very nice putt to get a half a point. 3 1/2 to 2 1/2 is great. Obviously 4-2, we are excited about that."

Captain Greg Norman said his International team had let slip match-winning positions and urged them to put the disappointment behind them and look to bounce back in Friday's fourballs.

"We are disappointed in the result. My guys felt like they let a few matches slip away, no question about it," Norman said. "They know the weather conditions are going to change a little bit and the next three days are going to be different than what it was today.

Australian Geoff Ogilvy and his South African partner Charl Schwartzel were two up with four holes to play only to bogey the 16th and 18th holes and allow Haas and Watney to square the match.

The all-Australian pair of Aaron Baddeley and Jason Day were leading two up with two holes left but faltered with a bogey-bogey finish to halve their match.

The Internationals' only major scalp was the unexpected huge win over Woods and Stricker, who were unbeaten at the 2009 Cup.

Scott, who now has Woods's old outspoken caddie Steve Williams carrying his bag, was relatively low-key after the significant victory.

The Americans set up victories at the previous two Presidents Cups by winning their opening foursomes in Montreal (2007) and San Francisco (2009).

